

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 AID-20 DPW-01 IO-12 OMB-01 EUR-25

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 RSR-01 /141 W

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P R 080349 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1317

INFO USDEL JEC PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 8017

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION SAIGON 7 MAY 73 REPEAETED TO YOU

QUOTE:

NHA TRANG 0475

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT PINS MILI VS

SUBJECT: MR 2 DAILY SIT REP, MAY 5-7

1. SUMMARY: ENEMY ACTIVITY OVER THE WEEKEND REMAINED AT CONSISTENT LEVELS; CASUALTIES WERE UP SLIGHTLY. ICCS MANAGED TO EXTRACT TWO DELEGATES FROM DUC CO MAY 5; REMAINING TWO EXPECTED OUT TODAY. VISIT BY MINISTER OF STATE DR. DAN REPORTEDLY RESULTED IN DECISIONS ON REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT IN DARLAC AND LAM DONG.

2. SECURITY SITUATION: INCIDENCE AND INTENSITY OF MILITARY ACTION REPORTED OVER PAST 72 - HOUR PERIOD APPROXIMATED THAT OF PRECEEDING COUPLE OF WEEKS. SEVENTEEN OF TOTAL 31 INCIDENTS OCCURRED IN BINH DINH; REMAINDER WERE SCATTERD THROUGH SEVEN OTHER PROVINCES. TUYEN DUC, QUANG DUC, DARLAC AND PHU BON REPORTED NO ACTIVITY. INCIDENTS INCLUDED NINE REPORTED ENEMY GROUND ATTACKS, THREE CONTACTS REPORTED AS SUCH, ELEVEN ATTACKS BY FIRE AND SIX MININGS, WITH REMAINDER MISCELLANEOUS. ENEMY: 37 KIA, 16 VC SUSPECTS CAPTURED; RVNAF: ELEVEN KIA, 22 WIA.

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3. HEAVIEST FIGHTING TOOK PLACE MORNING MAY 6 IN PHU MY DISTRICT, BINH DINH, A FEW KMS NORTH OF ITS BORDER WITH PHU CAT DISTRICT, WHEN ENEMY REPORTEDLY ATTACKED COMPANY OF 22 ND ARVN DIVISION IN ITS OUTPOST AND ARVN REACTION FIRE KILLED TEN ATTACKERS.

ARVN LOSSES WERE NIL. LATER IN MORNING, TWO MORE REPORTED ENEMY ATTACKS ON ARVN COMPANIES IN SAME AREA PROVED EQUALLY FRUITLESS; FOUR WERE KILLED IN ONE AND THREE IN THE OTHER. NO ARVN LOSSES REPORTED FOR THESE TWO ACTIONS, EITHER. AS WITH SOME OTHER RECENT AFTER-ACTION REPORTS FROM BINH DINH, HIGHLY FAVORABLE CASUALTY RATIOS SUGGEST POSSIBILITY THAT THESE CONTACTS MAY HAVE BEEN AT FRIENDLY INITIATIVE.

4. COMMUNIST ACTIVITIES: VC ENTERED GO BOI HAMLET, PHU SUNG VILLAGE,

HAM THUAN DISTRICT, BINH THUAN, NIGHT OF MAY 4 AND ASSASSINATED 56-YEAR-

OLD CHAU VAN DANH, CAPABLE AND HIGHLY REGARDED HAMLET CHIEF WHO HAD HELD OFFICE SINCE 1966. AT SAME TIME, SIX HAMLET PSDF WERE KIDNAPPED AND NINE INDIVIDUAL WEAPONS CAPTURED. MR. DANH HAD REPEATEDLY TOLD RESIDENTS OF HIS HAMLET THAT HE WOULD NEVER GO AWAY WITH THE COMMUNISTS; SPECULATION IS THAT HE WAS KILLED BECAUSE HE RESISTED ABDUCTION. INCIDENT OCCURRED WITHIN 400 METERS OF RF OUTPOST WHERE TWO PLATOONS ARE STATIONED. IN SUBSEQUENT INVESTIGATION RF ADMITTED THEY HEARD FIRING BUT THOUGHT PSDF WERE MERELY SHOOTING THEIR WEAPONS IRRESPONSIBLY. INCIDENT HAS UPSET BINH THUAN PROVINCE CHIEF, WHO ALREADY HAD NUMEROUS GRIEVANCES AGAINST HAM THUAN DISTRICT CHIEF AND TOLD SENIOR ARRO REPRESENTATIVE HE MAY NOW SEEK DC'S RELIEF. (THIS INCIDENT NOT CARRIED IN NHA TRANG REGIONAL BRIEFING.)

5. IN TWO WEEKEND TERRORIST INCIDENTS THAT WERE BRIEFED HERE (NOT INCLUDED AMONG 31 RVNAF INCIDENTS MENTIONED ABOVE), THREE CIVILIANS WERE WOUNDED WHEN THEY TRIGGERED VC PRESSURE MINES IN REMOTE AREAS OF PHU YEN PROVINCE. ALSO IN PHU YEN, NATIONAL POLICE REPORT THAT VC PLATOON ENTERED HAMLET IN TUY HOA DISTRICT MAY 2 TO CONDUCT PROPAGANDA MEETING, AFTER WHICH THEY COLLECTED 78 KGS OF RICE FROM RESIDENTS AND DEPARTED.

6. ICCS: CANADIAN AMB. GAUVIN VISITED NHA TRANG EVENING OF MAY 5 AFTER CANCELLING SCHEDULED LUNCHEON STOP AT REGION 4 HQ IN PHAN THIET. REGIONAL CANDEL AND INDODEL
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CHIEFS FROM PLEIKU, REGION 3 HQ, CAME DOWN FOR OCCASION;
PLEIKU HUNGDEL CHIEF'S JOURNEY TO DUC CO (BELOW) PREVENTED HIS ATTEND

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ING AND HE SENT LESSER-RANKING OFFICER, AS DID REGION 3 POLDEL CHIEF (WHOSE EXCUSE, IF ANY, IS NOT KNOWN). UNFORTUNATELY, CIRCUMSTANCES OF RECEPTION IN AMB. GAUVIN'S HONOR MADE ANY SUBSTANTIVE CONVERSATION IMPOSSIBLE.

7. REGION 3 ICCS HEADQUARTERS IN PLEIKU AGAIN ON MAY 5 HAD TWO HELICOPTERS STANDING BY, BUT PRG WOULD PERMIT ONLY ONE TO GO INTO DUC CO. ABOARD IT WAS CHIEF OF REGIONAL HUNGDEL WHO WAS ALSO CHAIRMAN OF REGION 3 LAST WEEK. HE WENT TO EXPRESS ICCS REGRETS AT HAVING TO VACATE DUC CO TEMPORARILY BECAUSE

OF UNHEALTHFUL CONDITIONS THERE. HUNGDEL CHIEF BROUGHT OUT WITH HIM ONE OF HIS TWO DELEGATES STILL AT DUC CO AND THE ONLY POLE STILL IN RESIDENCE (TEAM HAD BEEN CUT BACK TO FIVE MEN IN RECENT WEEKS). ANOTHER FLIGHT TODAY, MAY 7, IS EXPECTED TO BRING OUT THE REMAINING HUNGDEL AND THE INDODEL WHO WAS ROTATED IN ON MAY 1. ICCS REGIONAL HQ IN PLEIKU WILL MAINTAIN TWICE-DAILY RADIO CHECK WITH PRG AT DUC CO (WHICH WAS WHAT IT DID WITH ITS OWN ENTRY- POINT TEAM) AS SYMBOL OF INTENTION TO RETURN AT SOME TIME IN FUTURE.

8. THERE IS NO ADDITIONAL INFORMATION WITH RESPECT TO ICCS EVACUATION FROM BEN HET ENTRY- POINT, EXCEPT THAT NO ONE CAME OUT ON MAY 5 RESUPPLY FLIGHT. THIS DISAPPOINTED COL. WUWARNO, REGIONAL INDODEL CHIEF, WHO FEARS THAT ACCESS TO BEN HET WILL BE SEVERLY LIMITED ONCE RAINY SEASON BEGINS IN EARNEST. FURTHER ACTION WITH RESPECT TO BEN HET PRESUMABLY AWAITS DECISION BY ICCS PLENARY AND/ OR ITS MILITARY COMMITTEE.

9. REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT: DURING MAY 6 MEETING IN LAM DONG BETWEEN MINISTER OF STATE PHAN QUANG DAN AND ACTION MR 2 DEPUTY COMMANDER FOR PACIFICATION, COL. LE HUU DUC, DECISION WAS MADE TO BEGIN RESETTLEMENT OF 15,000 BINH LONG REFUGEES IN LAM DONG ON MAY 15. RESETTLEMENT AREA SITUATED ABOUT TEN KMS NORTH OF BAO LOC. ADDITIONALLY, IT WAS DECIDED THAT THE APPROXIMATELY TEN THOUSAND MONTAGNARD REFUGEES FROM DAK TO DISTRICT, KONTUM (NOW MOSTLY RESIDING IN MARY LOU REFUGEE CAMP LOCATED JUST OUTSIDE KONTUM CITY) WILL BE RELOCATED AT UNSPECIFIED TIME IN FUTURE IN BUON HO DISTRICT, DARLAC,
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AND AT ANOTHER LOCATION SOMEWHERE IN PHU BON.

10. CIVILIAN DETAINEE RELEASES: FURTHER INFORMATION ON MAY 3 SITE RECCE BY TPJMC DELEGATION FROM SAIGON IN THREE MR 2 PROVINCES INDICATES THAT RELEASE POINTS WERE AGREED UPON IN KONTUM AND PHU YEN. IN KONTUM, RELEASE POINT IS ON QL-14 AT " OO" LINE BETWEEN ZA AND ZB UTM GRID SQUARES. THIS LOCATION IS APPROX. 12 KMS NNW OF KONTUM CITY, AND LINE IN QUESTION HAS BEEN PREVIOUSLY REPORTED AS LINE OF DEMARCATION BETWEEN ARVN 53 RD REGT AND NVA/ VC FORCES TO NORTH OF IT. (SEE SAIGON 4670, MARCH 21 SIT REP, AND FOR FURTHER DETAIL, NHA TRANG 0238, SIT REP SAME DATE.) PHU YEN SITE IS REPORTEDLY IN VICINITY OF BQ 85.77, APPARENTLY AN EVEN MORE REMOTE AREA THAT SITE PRG FIRST PROPOSED OR SITE GVN COUNTERPROPOSED. DATES OF THESE RELEASES WILL REPORTEDLY BE DECIDED BY CENTRAL TPJMC NOW THAT SITES HAVE BEEN AGREED UPON.

11. WITH REGARD TO KHANH HOA SITE, PRG ON GROUND FAILED TO KEEP MAY 3 RENDEZVOUS WITH TPJMC DELEGATION. LATTER, ACCOMPANIED BY KHANH HOA SECTOR CHIEF OF STAFF AND CHIEF OF GVN ELEMENT OF NINH HOA TPJMC, ARRIVED BY CHOPPER OVER PREVIOUSLY- DESIGNATED RENDEZVOUS AREA AT APPOINTED TIME, 10 A. M., AND

ORBITED FOR AN HOUR, BUT NO LOCAL PRG APPEARED
SO CHOPPER DID NOT SET DOWN. RENDEZVOUS LOCATION (BQ 780.850)
WAS ABOUT TWO KMS WEST OF PROPOSED RELEASE POINT. (SO FAR AS
WE CAN DETERMINE, THERE IS NO CONTROVERSY OVER KHANH HOA RELEASE
POINT, ALTHOUGH PLEIKU POLOFF HAS HEARD A REPORT TO THAT EFFECT
AT MR 2 HQ.)
ENGLE UNQUOTE
WHITHOUSE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 10 MAY 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: VS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 MAY 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973SAIGON08017
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: SAIGON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730560/abqcehqd.tel
Line Count: 172
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 OCT 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16-Aug-2001 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <03-Oct-2001 by willialc>; RELEASED <23-Oct-2001 by kellelyw0>; APPROVED <29-Nov-2001 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> mcm 980107
Subject: MR 2 DAILY SIT REP, MAY 5-7
TAGS: PINS, MILI, PINT
To: STATE INFO JEC PARIS
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005